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LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We are hesitant to become drawn into a debate with those representing a country that is responsible for aggression and genocide against our Republic and who attempt to project innocence through the strategy of equating victim and victimizer. None the less, we feel it more appropriate to respond in this instance to Mr. Dragomir Djokic's letter of 19 January 1995 (A/49/832-S/1995/57). We will limit our response to only the essentials.

I, as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, represent all the citizens of our State and speak on behalf of a Government made up of all the peoples of the Republic. The Parliament of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to which Mr. Djokic refers as the "Muslim-Croat Parliament", has a Serb membership and its President, Mr. Miro Lazovic, who forwarded the Declaration on the Prevention of Genocide against Bosniacs and Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina (A/49/826-S/1995/29, annex), is a Serb. Our delegation to the United Nations is composed of individuals of all ethnic groups. For Mr. Djokic to refer to me as the "Muslim representative" is not only a deliberate disregard for the truth but also the worst example of religious intolerance and abuse of religious identification. This is exactly the type of manipulation and appeal to intolerance that is responsible for the hysteria, aggression and genocide perpetrated against my country by the regime that Mr. Djokic represents and its local collaborators.

Everything that is set out in Mr. Djokic's letter thereafter can only be viewed in the light of this initial slur, including the dishonest presentations of history and references to statistics whose only purpose is to incite hatred and justify the fruits of criminal behaviour and ethnic cleansing. We will not therefore engage in setting aright a crooked tree of lies whose roots are rotten and shallow.

Only one additional consideration needs to be raised as a consequence of that malicious letter. Having echoed and amplified all the hateful rhetoric of the Pale Serbs and Radovan Karadzic, and giving full credence to the reasoning of the same, how can the international community and the Security Council

continue to accept the orchestrated proposition that there is a significant difference in the views and policies of the Belgrade regime and the Pale Serbs.

We propose that the communications of Mr. Djokic and his superiors in Belgrade directed to the General Assembly and the Security Council through the Secretary-General should cause us to re-evaluate the Council's positions taken under its resolutions 943 (1994) of 23 September 1994 and 970 (1995) of 12 January 1995.

Especially in view of the aggressive tendencies and disrespect exhibited by such communications to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Serbia and Montenegro's other neighbours, the Security Council should demand at the least, from that entity the full recognition of its neighbours before any continuation of the current easing of sanctions in accordance with resolutions 943 (1994) and 970 (1995).

Finally, the Security Council and the General Assembly should determine whether they wish to provide a non-member State the continuing privilege to advance such falsehoods through official documents of the Council and the Assembly without Serbia and Montenegro having even endeavoured to meet the conditions of membership.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative